

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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P 081621Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3967

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 808

EXDIS

FOR EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, DA
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SECRETARY VANCE TO MOSCOW ON MARCH 28

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN INFORMED ME AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 8 THAT DANISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, OTTO BORCH, HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH DEPARTMENT TO INVITE SECRETARY VANCE TO MAKE STOPOVER IN COPENHAGEN, EITHER ON HIS WAY TO MOSCOW ON MARCH 28 OR ON HIS RETURN. JORGENSEN SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN HAD INITIALLY PLANNED TO WRITE A PERSONAL LETTER SUGGESTING STOPOVER, BUT IN VIEW OF THE DANISH ELECTIONS FEB 15 THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO TAKE THIS INITIATIVE. NEVERTHELESS, JORGENSEN ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO SECRETARY VANCE SINCERE HOPE OF DANISH GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH DANISH LEADERS EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW AT THE END OF MARCH.

2. JORGENSEN POINTED OUT THAT COPENHAGEN IS A CONVENIENT REFUELING POINT AND IT WOULD BE A GREAT HONOR FOR DANISH LEADERS TO RECEIVE SECRETARY AND TO ESTABLISH DIRECT PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.
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JORGENSEN SAID THAT A NEW DANISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED BY AROUND MARCH 1.

3. JORGENSEN SAID THAT IT LOOKS AS IF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD THE COUNTRY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS REMAIN IN OFFICE, SOME CABINET CHANGES WOULD OCCUR AND IT WAS NOT EVEN CERTAIN

THAT K.B. ANDERSEN WOULD CONTINUE AS FOREIGN MINISTER. REGARDLESS OF WHO WILL BE IN POWER IN DENMARK AT THE END OF MARCH, JORGENSEN SAID THAT ANY DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HEARTILY WELCOME AN EARLY VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE. PURPOSE OF JORGENSEN'S APPROACH WAS FOR DANES TO GET THEIR BID IN EARLY SO THAT SECRETARY VANCE CAN TAKE THEIR REQUEST INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING HIS SCHEDULE. I PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO YOU.

4. COMMENT: IF SECRETARY'S PLANE DOES REFUEL IN COPENHAGEN, IT WILL BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO AVOID COMING INTO TOWN FOR A MEETING WITH DANISH LEADERS. I STRONGLY URGE THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY BECAUSE HE, BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE, COULD MAKE A STRONG PITCH WITH THE DANES TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. THIS ISSUE MAY STILL BE VERY MUCH ALIVE AT THAT TIME.

5. ANOTHER AREA WHERE DANES COULD CLEARLY BE HELPFUL TO US IS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHERE THEY ARE WILLING AND IN A RELATIVELY GOOD POSITION TO TAKE INITIATIVES WITH SOME OF THE FRONTLINE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECALL DETAILED REPORT FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN GAVE US LAST NOVEMBER UPON HIS RETURN FROM ANGOLA.

6. AS A NEIGHBOR OF COMMUNIST EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND AS A CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DANES HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS,
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PARTICULARLY IN THE PREPARATION OF THE BELGRADE MEETING.

7. FINALLY, DENMARK IS A SMALL COUNTRY AND DANES ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THAT. THEY ARE THEREFORE SENSITIVE WHEN THEY ARE LEFT OUT OF CONSULTATION PROCESS AS MAY HAPPEN FOR EXAMPLE FROM THE SUMMIT MEETING IN THE SPRING. A BRIEF STOPOVER IN COPENHAGEN BY SECRETARY VANCE EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATIONS' TENURE WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO ASSUAGE DANES' FEELINGS. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO THE NEW DANISH GOVERNMENT OUR FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES AND PERHAPS MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR DANES TO SACRIFICE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES TO WHAT THEY THINK ARE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PREROGATIVES.
DEAN

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